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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during February 2000 totaled 93.0 million pounds, up 5 percent from February 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 98.0 million pounds live weight, was up 6 percent from February 1999. Total head slaughtered was 77,900, up 6 percent; and live weight averaged 1,258 pounds, an increase of 1 pound. Veal slaughter was 4.94 million pounds live weight, up 4 percent. Calf slaughter of 14,000 head was 3 percent less than last year. Average live weight increased 23 pounds to 354 pounds.

Pork production was 50.1 million pounds live weight, up 3 percent from 1999. Total head slaughtered was 205,000, an increase of 3.4 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 244 pounds, 1 pound lighter than last year.

Lamb and mutton slaughter was 376,000 pounds live weight, down 27 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,100, down 15 percent. The average live weight decreased 14 pounds to 92 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in February 2000 totaled 3.77 billion pounds. This production was 7 percent above the previous record high for February of 3.54 billion pounds produced in 1999. Beef production, dressed weight basis at 2.17 billion pounds, was 9 percent higher than the previous year. Veal production, at 18.0 million pounds, was up 6 percent from a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was equal to the previous record low for February set a year ago.